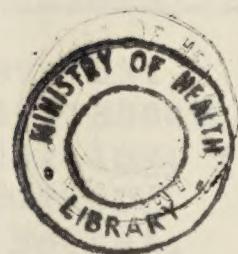


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BOROUGH AND PORT OF SANDWICH

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

For the Year

1959



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Mayor

Ald. J.J. Thomas.

Chairman - Public Health Committee.

Councillor J.G. Jeppard.

Public Health Committee.

Alderman G. Cleverly.
Alderman A. Mottershead.
Alderman F.S. Snelling.
Councillor W. Baxter.
Councillor D.S. Bettet.
Councillor L.R. Barlow.
Councillor Miss M.A. Turner.
Councillor R. Hambidge.
Councillor Mrs. I.E. Boyle.
Councillor A. Carlson.
Councillor A.H. Jutson.
Councillor F.W. Daniels.
Councillor F. Ratcliffe.
Councillor A.M. Sproul.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Public Health Inspector G.T. Rowlands

Additional Public Health Inspector ... S.W. Swift.

Clerk. Miss E.V Miles.

Town Clerk

Surveyor

BARRIE ROBERTS.

G.T. ROWLANDS.

BOROUGH OF SANDWICH 1959.

Mr Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

A report on the public health situation in Sandwich in 1959 is here presented.

Unchanged in area, the Borough presents its character within its ancient boundaries, but develops industrially and appropriately in Richborough.

The estimated mid year population of 4280 is based on trends known to the Registrar General and on population movements connected with Service establishments. The recorded reduction of 70 on the 1958 figure is probably artificial and bears no relation to the day population which must be nearly 1000 more.

The birth rate of 15.6 is satisfactory and when corrected with the factor supplied by the Registrar General (1.15) becomes 18 per 1000 population.

The death rate of 13.08 when corrected for population make -up becomes the very satisfactory rate of 10.3 per 1000 population.

The full statistical detail is given later.

Infectious Diseases.

Measles was predominant in the first three months and died out completely during the second half of the year.

Scarlet Fever followed and 9 cases occurred in the second quarter out of the total of 13 for the year. Three of these cases were admitted to Haine Isolation Hospital for the reason that home isolation was inadequate. Whooping Cough was limited in its occurrence to the last three months of the year, 15 cases occurring. Pneumonia was limited to the first quarter when 3 cases occurred associated with winter infections. Tuberculosis was confined to only 2 primary notifications, one respiratory and one non respiratory, and 1 notification of respiratory disease that turned out to be an old case relapsing.

Both primary cases went to hospital.

A Mass Radiography survey was carried out in the late summer and 2191 persons were X - Rayed, identifying 2 cases of active tuberculosis and 19 cases of inactive or recovered tuberculosis. Half the persons attending came when the Mass X Ray Unit was stationed at the Drill Hall and the rest were done at visits to the Richborough Factories. Altogether 31 per cent of those examined had not been X rayed before. It is worth mentioning in these days when radiation has become fireside talk that to go through the Mass X Ray Unit is completely safe from that point of view. The dose of radiation is no more than you would experience by moving from a brick house to a granite house for six months in the year, and is therefore a safe and natural feature of present day precautionary practice.

Protection against Infectious Disease by immunization and vaccination is provided by the County Council Clinics and the family doctors. The following figures represent the years progress.

		<u>Total</u>	<u>15 & under</u>	<u>Under 2</u>	<u>Number up to 2 years.</u>
Diphtheria - Primary Immunization		67			61
Whooping Cough		24			
Smallpox	Primary Vaccination	69			62
	Revaccinations	50			42
Poliomyelitis	<u>Total</u>		<u>15 & under</u>	<u>Under 2</u>	<u>Adults & Priorities</u>
No with 2 injections given 1958	689	598		79	
No with 2 injections given 1959	436	140		86	210
No with 3 injections given 1959	681	520		62	99

These figures show that the protection against diphtheria is being maintained at a reasonable level; that protection against whooping cough is being given to most infants; and that a better percentage of smallpox vaccination is being achieved in infants, more than 50% now. The take up of poliomyelitis vaccination by those over 15 years of age is disappointing especially when the vaccine is actually made in the Borough.

Out of the children up to and including age 15 there are 537 children fully protected against diphtheria and 409 partially protected.

Statistical Tabulations

Population 4280 (mid 1959)

Live Births - 67 Male 40 Female 27

Live Birth Rate 15.6 per 1000 population corrected 18 per 1000.

England & Wales
16.5

Stillbirths Nil S.B. rate Nil.

Total Live & stillbirths 67

Infant deaths 2 (both under 1 week in age)

Infant mortality rate calculated as per 1000 Live
Births 30

Infant Mortality per 1000 live births legitimate 31.8
Illegitimate - nil.

Neonatal Mortality rate (first 4 wks) - 30

Perinatal Mortality rate 30

Maternal deaths - Nil

Deaths all causes - 56 Male 26 Female 50

" Under 1 year 2 Male 1 Female 1 (both under
1 week)

Death rate per 1000 population 13.08

corrected death rate 10.3

11.6

Age distribution

Male Female

Deaths under age 1 year	1	1
to age 15	-	-
" " 45	2	1
" " 55	2	-
" " 65	2	1
" " 75	9	5
" " 85	8	14
Above 85	2	8

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Deaths 1959	M.	F.	Total 1959	Total 1958
Tuberculosis. Respiratory ..	-	-	-	1
Other Forms ..	-	-	-	1
Other infective & parasitic diseases.	-	-	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach ..	1	1	2	-
Lungs and Bronchus ..	1	-	1	4
All others ..	6	1	7	9
Diabetes	-	-	-	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System. ..	2	6	8	11
Coronary Disease, Angina ..	4	5	9	7
Other Heart Diseases.	3	4	7	4
Other Circulatory Diseases ..	4	6	10.	6
Influenza	1	-	1	-
Pneumonia....	-	1	1	3
Bronchitis	1	-	1	1
Motor Vehicle accidents ...	-	-	-	2
All other accidents	1	-	1	3
Suicide	-	-	-	2
Other defined and ill defined diseases.	2	6	8	8
TOTAL	26	30	56	64

Infectious Diseases - Incidence by Quarter and Age.

Disease	Quarter				Total 1959	Age				1958	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		0-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25+	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	2	9	-	2	13	2	10	1			5
Whooping Cough ...	-	-	-	15	15	5	9	-	-	1	1
Measles.	196	9	-		205	86	114	4	1		7

The Surveyor / Chief Public Health Inspector has supplied the following details of the Public Health work in the Borough.

Water Supplies .

The Thanet Water Board is responsible for the supply of Water to the Borough. The extensive mains system throughout the Borough is now part of the area system and improvements to the system are being constantly carried out.

During the year the linking of the 6" main in Most Sole to the 3" in Loop Street was carried out. This was contemplated before the Board was instituted and it has resulted in improved pressure to an important industrial area of the Borough.

This department is now only directly connected with water in the routine sampling of water from the mains. During the year 5 samples were taken and sent to the Public Health Laboratories for bacteriological examination and in all cases the sample was reported on as being highly satisfactory.

The policy of renewing the old lead services on the old portion of the Housing Estate which serve a number of houses has continued.

During the year the 1½" lead service in St. Barts Road which supplied some 10 houses became defective and instead of repairing it fresh copper services to individual houses were laid direct from the 3" main in St. Barts Road, and the

old lead service from Woodnesborough Road to the rear of these houses was cut out.

There are still a number of these old lead services in Woodnesborough Road which are likely to cause trouble.

As soon as these become defective they will be cut out and individual services put in.

Drainage.

The Float Tests carried out at Sandwich Bay in 1958 by Messrs. Lewis & Duvivier showed that the currents in the Bay were such that the sewage for any new outfall would be rapidly returned to the shore and not taken out to sea.

Any thoughts of the construction of an outfall in this area had, therefore, to be abandoned and the Council had to consider the construction of a proper treatment works.

Discussions took place during the year with the Kent River Board, (River Pollution Department) to a certain what standard of priority of effluent was required bearing mind Mr Monk's report on samples of water taken from the river. The Board took the attitude that if the old works was used for the Ramsgate road area and another works constructed for the town the old works should be made to give complete treatment and the new one give initially a partial treatment but provision made for the extension to the new works to be undertaken later to give complete treatment.

Messrs. Scott & Wilson Kirkpatrick were asked to investigate the question of the best way of treating the sewage and to ascertain the most suitable position for such a works.

During the year the Sandwich Bay and the Woodnesborough Sewers were connected to the Borough's sewage system.

The sewer from the Bay entered the Sandown Road Sewer near the road to St. George's Golf Course and is discharged through the Sandown Road Pumping Station. The sewer from the village of Woodnesborough joins the town's main at Poulders Gardens and passes through the Loop Street Pumping Station. This arrangement has worked very satisfactorily and no trouble has been experienced.

Works has continued on the improvement of the Pumps at the Loop Street and Bulwark Pumping stations. Spares have been obtained and worn out parts have been replaced making the pumps more efficient. During the year trouble was experienced through foreign bodies gaining access to the mains and damaging the impellers.

Its impossible to eliminate this risk and the prompt replacement of damaged impellers is the only action possible.

Food & Food Preparation Premises.

During the year the high standards of these premises were maintained and in several instances improved upon.

A total of 109 visits were made and although no formal notices were served any suggestions made by the Inspector has been acted upon. This willing co-operation on the part of the Traders has been most welcome and has been reflected in the continual improvement in standards of hygiene on the various premises.

Ice Cream

Ice cream is not manufactured in the Borough but there are 21 premises from which Ice Cream is sold. These premises have all been registered and have been regularly visited throughout the season. Most of the Ice Cream sold in the Borough is pre-packed and only in cafes and hotels is it sold loose.

During the year 12 Ice Cream samples were taken with the following results.

Category 1	9
"	11
"	111

In all cases where the sample has been placed in Category 11 suggestions have been made and subsequent samples have been placed in Category 1.

Butchers Shops.

All Butchers shops, food preparation rooms, and vehicles transporting meat have been regularly inspected and the high standards have been maintained. The provision of hot water for hands and utensils, the impervious covering of all surfaces and the increase of refrigeration accommodation have been receiving special attention and improvements have been effected in these aspects.

Bakers Shops & Bakeries.

Routine inspection of these premises continued throughout the year and conditions were found to be satisfactory.

Licenced Premises.

The inspection of licenced premises continued during the year and improvements were effected. The provision of proper conveniences, the washing of glass were the main points of interest and in two or three instances major work has been put in hand to improve conditions.

Shops.

All food shops and most other shops were inspected during the year. Particular attention was of course paid to food shops where the washing facilities for employees and utensils, sanitary accommodation and the covering of all surfaces with impervious material came in for special attention.

During the year 426 lbs. of tinned and other foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Milk & Dairies.

A. Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 Part III.

No of registered distributors 4

No of registered dairies 2

B. Licences granted under Milk (Special Designation)

Regulations 1949 excluding licences granted by
Food & Drug Authorities in relation to milk
pasteurised or sterilised on the premises of the
applicant.

Dealers.

Pasteurised 3

Sterilised 2

T.T. 3

During the year 11 milk samples were taken and sent to the Public Health Laboratory for examination, all conformed to the prescribed standards and were satisfactory.

The retail dairies were inspected and conditions were found satisfactory.

Meat Inspection

There is one abattoir in the Borough, a private one, owned by T. Wood & Sons Ltd. of Canterbury. It is situated in Loop Street and a considerable number of animals are dealt with weekly. The annual kill for 1959 and for the 3 years prior to that is shown in the table below, broken down into the types of animals slaughtered.

	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>
Cattle	1753	2595	2396	1931
Calves	1501	1633	1000	933
Sheep	6102	8048	6121	14066
Pigs	13041	18829	15896	15261
<u>Total</u>	<u>22397</u>	<u>31105</u>	<u>25419</u>	<u>32191</u>
% Increase or decrease over preceeding year		+ 38%	- 18%	+ 26.6%

It will be noted that there was a large increase in the total for the year against that of 1958. This was entirely due to the great increase in the number of sheep dealt with.

I think the reason for the marked increases in this class was the exceptionally dry summer, which led to a shortage of feeding stuff and much greater numbers had to be disposed of than would normally have been the case.

During the year nearly 900 visits were made to the Abattoir for the purpose of inspecting the meat. All the animals were inspected post mortem and many of them before slaughtering. In the course of these inspections a total of 12 tons 13 cwts. of meat and offal was condemned as unfit for human consumption.

The table below giving details of numbers of animals slaughtered and the incidence of disease is very interesting. The effect of the establishing of an Eradication Area has reduced still further the number of cattle found to be affected with Tuberculosis, and further this has led to a significant drop in the number of pigs similarly affected. No cattle other than cows were found to be suffering from Tuberculosis and the cows were all either reactors from herds or imported direct to the Abattoir. With regards to the pigs the percentage of the animals affected fell from 3.06% in 1958 to 1.98% in 1959.

The high percentage of other disease found in all classes of animals is of little importance, and the vast majority of these conditions were due to climatic or geographical conditions. Parasite disease causing cirrhosis of the liver was very common but this is to be expected considering that the low lying and marshy ground favours the spread of the disease.

Meat Inspection

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
No. killed	1128	803	933	14066	15261
No. inspected.	1128	803	933	14066	15261
All diseases <u>except</u> T.B. & C. Bovis.					
Whole carcase condemned.	-	2	3	46	24
Carcases of which some part or organ was condem- ned.	141	439	10	768	1518
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B. or C. Bovis.	12.5%	54.9%	1.4%	5.79%	9.9%
<u>TUBERCULOSIS</u> only.					
Whole carcase condemned.	-	-	-	-	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condem- ned.	-	23	-	-	300
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B.	NIL	2.86%	-	-	1.98%
<u>Cysticercus</u> .					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condem- ned.	6	6	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigerat- ion.	6	6	-	-	-
Generalized and totally condemned.	-	-	-	-	-

Council Property.

No further building of Council houses took place during the year but the Council considered the possibility of acquiring further land in the Hazelwood Meadow, St. Barts Farm yard area for further building operations.

It is proposed that this development should be of a mixed type but should include some oldfolks units and a common room and Warden's Flat.

The need of this type of accommodation is likely to increase in the future and the demand will rise for some years to come.

Negotiations for the acquisition of a site has started and suggested layouts have been drafted.

General improvements to the estate continue to be made.

The external painting of 72 properties was undertaken and the brighter colour scheme already started was continued.

As forecast in my last report the number of applications for garages continued to increase and to meet the demand of these tenants in whose garden was no room to erect a garage, sites near the allotments be ind Burch Avenue were made available at 1/- per week. Further an area of verge in St. Barts Road adjacent to the farm yard was levelled, surfaced, and turned into a parking space for about 20 vehicles.

Improvement to the verges continued and trees were planted to replace those which had died or been damaged.

Warden Group.

Last year the group of 28 bungalows was turned into an old folks unit with a warden's service provided. In January a warden was appointed and during the year this system has been working very satisfactorally.

In order to maintain continuous supervision and yet allow the warden time off it was arranged that the Red Cross should assist and when the warden is indisposed or away on holiday members of the Red Cross carry out the daily visits and generally provide the usual supervision.

Other Property.

During the year 14 schemes were submitted to the Council for the improvement to properties in the Borough. The total value of these schemes amounted to £7,373 and improvement grants were sanctioned in every case. The total amount of the grants issued during the year amounted to £5,496.

For an old and historical town like Sandwich these grants serve two very useful purposes. Much of the property is very old and in order to qualify for the grant the dwelling must be put in a good state of repair. Thus besides the provision of the necessary modern amenities the life of the house is lengthened. This preserving of the old property instead of carrying out demolition and rebuilding, maintains the street picture and helps to preserve the atmosphere of the old town though internally the dwellings have been modernised.

Slum Clearance.

The demolition of the 6 units at Oak Cottages has been carried out. Prior to this being done the tenants were transferred to the New Creighton House Flats.

Five houses in the Borough were closed and the tenants rehoused. In all these cases Undertakers were assured from the owners that the dwelling should not be used for human habitation until the necessary work has been carried out.

General Housing Inspections.

A.	Numbers of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health & Housing Acts.	86
B.	Houses found to be in any respect unfit for human habitation.	18
C.	Houses found to be unfit for human habitation and incapable of repair at reasonable expense.	4
D.	Dwellings where defects were remedied after informal action.	18
E.	Dwellings which were rendered fit after serving formal notices.	NIL
F.	Dwellings in respect of which demolition orders were made (Closing Orders under Section 17 Housing Act, 1957 Sub.Section 1) Sec. 16(4)	5
	Dwellings in respect of which demolition orders were made.	NIL
G.	Houses Demolished.	6
H.	Houses in which closing orders in respect of part of a building were made.	NIL

Refuse Disposal.

The weekly collection of Refuse from the Borough and its disposal by controlled tipping on the Council's site adjacent to the Ash Road has continued. The amount of household refuse and trade refuse has continued to increase and the scarcity of covering material has necessitated the hire of mechanical implements to assist in the work. The majority of the trade refuse has to be burnt before disposal and this and the resultant ash makes the tip appear untidy at times.

No fly nuisance has been experienced and although there has been evidence of rat infestation, prompt treatment has kept this down to a minimum.

Factories. (1937 and 1948 Factories Acts)

	<u>On Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Notices</u>	<u>Prosecutions</u>
Those where Sections 1,2,3,4,6 are enforced by L.A.	1	2	-	-
Those where Section 7 is enforced by L.A.	36	27	-	-
Other premises where Section 7 is enforced by L.A..	1	-	-	-
<hr/>				
Total	38	29	-	-
<hr/>				

During the visits under these acts various suggestions have been made verbally, and prompt action on the part of the management has avoided the necessity for the serving of official notices.

There are 60 outworkers who make receptacles partly or wholly of paper for a nearby factory.

Rodent Control.

During the year a considerable amount of work was carried out in inspecting properties for evidence of Rodent Infestation and where found carrying out the necessary treatment. It was found that a total of 46 properties and 2 Agricultural holdings were infected. In 33 dwellings 2 properties belonging to the Corporation and 11 Business premises infestation was discovered and treatment cleared the nuisance. In no case was a major infestation discovered.

The majority of these infestations were found as a result of routine visiting under other Acts and the direct surveys were mainly confined to Council controlled land.

The controlled tip, the banks of the streams and the banks of the river Stour were all surveyed directly for the infestation of these lands is endemic but the surveys did not show any major increase and routine treatment has kept the infestation well under control.

Methods of Control.

The standard method of control has continued to be by the use of Warfarin which in most instances has proved to be most effective. In a few cases the available food has proved to be more attractive than the Warfarin bait and in these instances recourse has had to be made to the older type of poison. Where however food is less attractive or more difficult to obtain the Warfarin baits have proved to be excellent.

Sewer Treatment.

As usual one sewer treatment was carried out early in the year. Test baiting was carried out in a proportion of manholes spread throughout the Borough.

The result followed the normal pattern which has been experienced in the past. Only the sewers discharging directly into the river were found to be affected and as the source of the infestation is the banks of the river the control of the infestation at the manholes is impossible. Treatment of the river banks themselves was attempted with reasonable results but the soft and dangerous mud, and the tidal range makes this most difficult.

Town and Port of Sandwich Borough Kent. 1959

Annual Statement.

Port Medical Officers; Malcolm S. Harvey M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
Port Health Inspectors: G.T. Rowlands.

During the year the Richborough wharf remained unused, but ships unloaded at Pfizer's wharf and at the Town Quay. The commodities unloaded comprised oil, fuel, and timber, the latter from abroad.

No cases of infectious disease occurred in the Port, and no action on surveillance or control was required.

The water supply to the Town Quay and Pfizer's wharf is main's supply and was found pure on testing during the year.

The hospital facilities in the area remain unchanged.

The state of the tidal estuary of the River Stour was investigated in June 1957 in connection with the Town's Sewage disposal into the river, by tests taken by the Public Analyst at several points on the river at differing tide levels. While the result of that uncompleted survey was unexpectedly satisfactory and showed a most beneficial tidal flush, the provision of a sewage treatment scheme for the town has been under active consideration. This is unlikely to end the disposal of some trade effluents into the estuary. Although these are high in biological demand they do not contain any pathogenic material and present no risk.

The condition of the water of the port and estuary is therefore satisfactory. The area of foreshore on which shellfish are gathered is outside the limits of the port and in Eastry Rural District or Ramsgate Borough.

<u>Shipping arriving.</u>	<u>No of Vessels.</u>	<u>Tonnage.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>
Home Waters .	38	5635	4
Foreign Going.	<u>10</u> <u>48</u>	<u>1012</u> <u>6647</u>	<u>9</u> <u>13</u>

Defects found - nil: action required - nil.

Your obedient Servant,

Malcolm S. Harvey.

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

